

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY INTERVENTION

GENERAL SESSION

RECORDER: CHERYL HOLDEN

SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D.; Arleen Downing, M.D., Marcy Gallagher, R.N., Gretchen M. Hester; Rick Ingraham; Cynthia Jaynes; Lynn Lorber; Beverley Morgan-Sandoz; Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D., Theresa Rossini; Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D., Luis Zanartu.

OTHERS PRESENT:

See Attachment A.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Peterson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. He introduced Sheryl Gonzalez from the Department of Health Services (DHS) who is attending on behalf of Dr. Hallie Morrow, and Nancy Sager from the California Department of Education (CDE), attending on behalf of Jim Bellotti. Luis Zanartu was also introduced as the new representative from the Department of Mental Health (DMH). Dr. Peterson acknowledged that Mr. Zanartu had previously worked in Early Start and welcomed him back.

Dr. Peterson announced that Debby Sarmento, Vice Chair of the Family Resource Centers/Networks of California (FRCN-CA), is representing the FRCN-CA today on behalf of Linda Landry Chair of the FRCN-CA. He also thanked her for chairing the Family Resources and Supports Committee (FRSC) on Thursday and welcomed her as a new Community Representative to the ICC.

ICC Members and the audience provided self-introductions.

Dr. Peterson, Hedy Hansen, and Gretchen Hester will be representing the ICC at the 2003 Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP) Annual National Early Childhood Conference, November 2-5, 2003. The conference is intended for a variety of audiences involved in planning and delivering services to young children with special needs and their families. Additional information and conference registration is available on the website at www.nectac.org.

Sandy Harvey has agreed to represent California at Arkansas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference in October 2003. The theme of the conference is "Communication Counts: Optimizing Outcomes for Children with Hearing Loss". Additional information is available on Early Hearing Detection and Intervention website, www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/edhi/conference.htm.

Ms. Harvey will be sharing information from this conference with the FRCN conference planners.

Elissa Provance announced that the "Summary of the Transfer of Knowledge Symposium" would be available the end of September 2003. For additional information contact WestEd at (916) 492-4000.

The following resource information was shared and copies made available to those in attendance:

- *Healthy Minds: Nurturing Children's Development from 0 to 36 Months* from the American Academy of Pediatrics;
- California Alliance of Information and Referral Services and Strategies;
- *2003 Annual Conference* information;
- *Fun for All – Shane's Inspiration: Accessible playgrounds*;
- *Safely Surrendered Baby*: Public Education Materials from First 5 Los Angeles;
- *Early Start Mediation and Due Process Case Status Report*.

AGENDA REVIEW

The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 29, 2003 ICC meeting were approved with the following amendments:

- 1) Page 28: Lynn Lorber was in attendance.
- 2) Page 31: There were 9 votes in favor of Action Item #1 and 1 vote against the motion.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met on Thursday. They reviewed and prioritized the goals of each Standing Committee based on information from the prior meetings. The Executive Committee met in the morning prior to the ICC meeting to review additional input from the Standing Committees and the following issues were identified as priorities for all committees:

- A) Early entry
- B) Transition
- C) IFSP

The Executive Committee will continue to meet on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, prior to the ICC Standing Committee meetings.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Peterson thanked the Standing Committees for their continuing efforts to promote and enhance the Early Start service system. He encouraged all in attendance to support programs and services for children through continued collaboration and parent-professional partnerships.

The Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including Part C, is a major issue we all need to keep informed on. A side-by-

side comparison of the original legislation, with proposed changes in HR1350 and S1248 can be found on page 104 of the September ICC packet. Dr. Peterson asked those involved with Early Start to continue to monitor the Reauthorization of IDEA and make certain that state and federal elected representatives are kept informed about the value and effectiveness of coordinated early intervention services.

STAFF REPORT

Cheryl Holden reported the next ICC meeting would be November 20-21, 2003 at the Hilton – Arden West in Sacramento. The government rate is available to those making reservations by October 27, 2003. Please contact the Hilton Hotel directly at (916) 922-4700. Members needing assistance with travel arrangements or to request a travel advance may contact Barbara Ferreira at (916) 654-1596. All other questions about the meeting can be referred to Ms. Holden at (916) 654-2809 or to Cheri Schoenborn at (916) 654-2767.

Ms. Holden requested that members and community representatives review the ICC rosters and committee membership lists and submit any updates to her.

ACTION ITEMS

Two action items were presented to ICC members for a vote.

Action Item #1: California Early Start for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families Annual Report, July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002.

Discussion: Dr. Peterson explained that Part C of IDEA, Section 303.654 requires the ICC to prepare an annual report to the Governor of California and to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education on the status of the State's early intervention program. The reporting period for this annual report is July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002.

Elaine Fogel Schneider, Chair of the Public Awareness Committee, stated the committee reviewed the report and submitted minor technical revisions.

Beverly Morgan-Sandoz suggested Table 3 on page 9 of the draft report include a column displaying the ethnicity of children born in California during the reporting period to compare and with the ethnicity of children served by Early Start.

Ms. Morgan-Sandoz also suggested the addition of a graphic to display the relationship between the individuals and entities involved in Early Start.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Annual Report with the above amendments.

Vote: 12 in favor, 3 in favor by proxy votes from Dr. Morrow, Michelle Douyon-Davis, and Hedy Hansen, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The motion to approve the Annual Report with amendments was passed.

Action Item #2: 2004 ICC Meeting Schedule

Discussion: Dr. Peterson explained that in order to comply with the Department of Finance Budget Letter of January 2003, it was agreed the ICC would meet four (4) times per year in Sacramento.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed 2004 ICC meeting schedule as written.

Vote: 12 in favor, 3 in favor by proxy votes from Dr. Morrow, Michelle Douyon-Davis, and Hedy Hansen, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The motion to approve the 2004 ICC meeting schedule was passed.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER/NETWORK OF CA (FRC/N-CA) REPORT

Debby Sarmiento reported on the activities of the FRC/N-CA meeting held on Wednesday. The minutes from the meeting are included as Attachment B.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Each of the standing Committee Chairs provided a report identifying outcomes, barriers and action plans to address three priority areas identified by the Executive Committee:

- 1) Early entry
- 2) Transition
- 3) IFSP.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jean Brunelli, State Chairperson of the Infant Development Association, provided a copy of the "IDA News." This issue's theme is assessment and features an article by Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D. A copy of the "IDA News" is attached.

Mary Smithberger offered the assistance of CDE/CDD's Map to Inclusive Child Care contract to develop a resource for early childhood faculty and infant/toddler child care staff to use to better understand transition from Early Start at age 3 and the similarities and differences between the IFSP and IEP processes. This would help them better support families as they work their way through the transition. Initially, this would be an on line resource. It could later be printed if funding was available from DDS, CDE/CDD or another source.

Kathy Mikitka, program specialist from Supporting Early Education Delivery Systems (SEEDS), provided information about the *Early Childhood Special Education Series*. The series consists of seven handbooks focusing on core concepts and preferred practices gathered from an in-depth review of current literature, statutes, and regulations. A description of all seven handbooks and an order form to purchase the published versions is available on the website at www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed/resource.htm#pubs. Several of the Handbooks are also available in PDF format and can be downloaded from the site.

Kathleen Finn shared that SEECAP will sponsor two seminars as part of the Lessons in Leadership skill-building strand for 2003-04. *The Creative Training Techniques Seminar* will be held October 29, 2003, at the Sheraton Hotel in

Anaheim. *Effective Meeting Management* will be held November 5, 2003, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. For more information, call SEECAP at their new phone number: (760) 471-8208 X 228 or visit the SEECAP web-site at www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/seecap

Lois Pastore from the San Diego County Office of Education shared that she participated in the Early Start Evaluator Training provided by DDS to prepare participants to take part as evaluators on Early Start monitoring teams. Ms. Pastore acknowledged the training team and found it to be a valuable educational experience. ICC members Gretchen Hester, who attended the Napa Evaluator Training and Arleen Downing, who attended the Orange County Evaluator Training, echoed Ms. Pastore's comments.

Janet Eaton provided an update on the activities of California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Ms. Eaton thanked the ICC for allowing the SCDD to hold a public hearing on the State Plan Amendments after the May 2003, ICC meeting adjourned. The following statement will appear in all information written about SCDD funded projects as a result of concern brought forth from the ICC, *"As part of the SCDD State Plan, the Council provides funding for new approaches serving Californian's with developmental disabilities that are part of an overall strategy for systemic change."* The Initial Cycle 26 Grants are in the process of being approved for an October 1, 2003 start date. It was announced that Alan Kerzin has been appointed as the Deputy Director of Area Board Operations. The next SCDD meeting will be held November 17 – 18, 2003 at the Sheraton Hotel in Sacramento.

AGENCY REPORTS

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH)

Luis Zanartu reported DMH is working with their contractors to complete the California Infant, Preschool, Family Mental Health Initiative (IPFMHI) deliverables for fiscal year 2003. IPFMHI is a collaborative effort involving eight county departments of mental health and their interagency community partners in the development of early mental health services and relationship-based early intervention for children from birth to five and their families.

Mr. Zanartu shared the Mental Health Screening Tool (MHST 0-5). The MHST 0-5 is a brief screening tool designed to identify those children younger than five years old most urgently in need of a more thorough mental health screening or assessment. A copy of the MHST 0-5 is attached.

Mr. Zanartu also shared information on the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC) who oversees the First 5 California program. They are currently seeking proposals for the California First 5 Special Needs Project. This project is designed to ensure early identification of special needs and early intervention through a continuum of community based coordinated services. The Project demonstration sites will serve families of all young children with special needs, including those whose disabilities have not yet been diagnosed or whose special needs do not meet the criteria of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Additional information on RFP CCFC-6916, Special Needs Project is available at www.ccfc.ca.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE (DMHC)

Marcy Gallagher reported DMHC continues to conduct outreach activities to inform individuals about the Office of Patient Advocate (OPA). The OPA informs and assists consumers who are enrolled in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) to learn about rights and responsibilities as an HMO health plan member and how to ensure individuals receive the health care to which they are entitled under California law.

The OPA publishes the "Quality of Care Report Card" each year to provide comparative information on the performance of California's largest HMOs and medical groups. The "Quality of Care Report Card" and the 2002 "HMO Help Center Annual Report" are available on-line at www.dmhca.ca.gov.

LEAD AGENCY – DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Rick Ingraham reported that DDS continues to monitor the re-authorization of IDEA, Part C and changes and revisions continue to be made. In its current form, the legislation requires that all children involved with the child welfare system (Child Protective Services) be referred to Early Start. DDS' current referral data indicate that only 10% of those children eligible for Early Start are referred from this source. The potential exists for an increase evaluation and assessments conducted, without an increase in eligible children identified and without additional funding for the increase workload.

Mr. Ingraham reported the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has revised the schedule and plans for monitoring Part C programs. It is anticipated that OSEP staff will visit California in the spring or summer of 2004. DDS is focusing the Continuous Improvement Process on three priority areas identified by OSEP, child find, natural environments, and data-based accountability.

Information was provided about the draft Early Start Statistics Report in the September ICC packet. The report contains a number of key performance indicators that show whether Early Start is meeting federal obligations as specified in State and Federal regulations. Mr. Ingraham suggested Ken Freedlander, Chief of the Early Start Local Support Section, provide the ICC with an overview of this information at the next meeting.

Mr. Ingraham provided an update on Early Start's toll free telephone information line data. The "Babyline" report is attached.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

Nancy Sager reported for CDE on behalf of Jim Bellotti. Ms. Sager shared a State Legislative Update covering special education and related legislation dated August 25, 2003 (see attached).

CDE has made a commitment to the United States Secretary of Education that California will make necessary changes to its statutes, regulations, policies, and

procedures to make them consistent with the requirements of Part B of the IDEA and its implementing regulations by July 1, 2004. Based on those specific assurances, California received a conditional grant award letter for fiscal year 2003-2004 federal Part B grant funds.

Ms. Sager provided an "Encore of CDE Web Site Activity" which is a chronological list of documents, policy, guidance, and announcements that were added or updated in August 2003 (see attached).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)

Sheryl Gonzalez reported for DHS on behalf of Dr. Hallie Morrow. Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway Program. Gateway provides pre-enrollment of children into full scope Medi-Cal at the time the child visits a CHDP provider's office. Parents or legal guardians may indicate that they want to receive an application for continuing health care coverage for their child beyond the pre-enrollment period. During the period of July 1, 2003 – September 10, 2003, there were 112,073 children pre-enrolled in Medi-Cal through Gateway. 5,300 of these families returned the supplemental application and continue to have eligibility for full scope Medi-Cal services until either Medi-Cal or Healthy Families Program makes a final determination of eligibility.

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on the status of the Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP). All regions in California are being served by a Hearing Coordination Center. There are 140 hospitals certified currently statewide. Miller Children's Hospital is beginning certification of the 39 additional hospitals in the two Southern California regions they serve. It is anticipated all certification activities and projects will be completed by March 2004.

The following data was collected during the period of 7/1/02 – 3/31/03:

- More than 155,000 infants were screened for hearing loss;
- The referral rate at time of discharge was 3% overall;
- 200 infants were identified with hearing loss;

California has a federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant to provide training to audiologists regarding diagnostic evaluations in infants. To date, a total of 55 audiologists have participated in three training sessions. Each session includes an on-line component, a two-day workshop, and a practicum component. Two additional training sessions will be held this year.

Children's Medical Services (CMS) policy and program letters are now posted on-line at www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/onlinearchive. Ms. Gonzalez shared a handout listing policy and program letters released since the last ICC meeting (see attached).

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS (ADP)

Cynthia Jaynes, from the Office of Perinatal Substance Abuse, reported ADP has been ordered by the Department of Finance to complete a 20% budget reduction drill for fiscal year 2004, including all funding sources, State General Fund and

federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funds. ADP is preparing to submit a request to be excluded from this latest round of Budget Drills. The ADP budget has been reduced to the level of funding in order to meet the maintenance of effort as required by the SAPT Block Grant requirements.

With the signing of the 2003-2004 State Budget Act, site visits to the publicly funded Perinatal treatment programs have resumed. To date, ADP has conducted over 80 program visits to 36 counties. Information on the Early Start program is well received by the Perinatal programs and county administrators.

ADP has experienced an increase in the number of requests from the public for information on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), as well as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The Santa Clara County Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder includes several experts on FAS including Kathryn Page Ph.D. Dr. Page has published several articles including "The Invisible Damage of Prenatal Alcohol Damage". Contact information for Dr. Page is Kpage99999@aol.com or (650) 365-0490. Santa Clara County is sponsoring a series of workshops on FASD to be held between November 2003 and May 2004, followed by a one-day conference in June 2004. See attached for more information.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.